

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
October 23, 2006**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
Western District of Kentucky**

**Contact: Sandy Focken
United States Attorney's Office
(502) 582-5911**

**LOUISVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS
AND THREE MONTHS ON ECSTACY CHARGES**

– over \$1,000,000 in street value

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **THAO HOANG LAI**, age 30, of 09 Colonial Oak, Louisville, Kentucky, **was sentenced** in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, for conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute and distribution of ecstasy.

Jennifer B. Coffman, Judge, United States District Court, sentenced **Lai** to 7 years and 3 months imprisonment, plus 5 years supervised release following incarceration. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

Lai pled guilty and admitted that from on or about February 1, 2003, until on or about October 13, 2004, in Jefferson County, Kentucky, he conspired to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute methylenedioxymehtamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as ecstasy. **Lai** also pled guilty and admitted that on or about January 12, 2005, in Jefferson County, he knowingly and intentionally possessed with the intent to distribute ecstasy. The total number of ecstasy tablets

- MORE -

involved in these charges was approximately 50,720, which has a street value of \$1,014,400.00.

Two other individuals who were also charged in this conspiracy with **Lai** have already been sentenced. On May 11, 2006, Jennifer B. Coffman, Judge, United States District Court, sentenced **Hoang Van Nguyen** to 5 years and 10 months imprisonment, plus 4 years supervised release following incarceration for conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute and distribution of ecstasy and methamphetamine. On May 22, 2006, Jennifer B. Coffman, Judge, United States District Court, sentenced **Vinh Ngoc Ha** to 12 years and 7 months imprisonment, plus 5 years supervised release following incarceration for conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute and distribution of ecstasy and methamphetamine.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura L. Hall and was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

- END -

DLH:LLH:sch:060516